

09/674399

529 Rec'd PCT/PTC 31 OCT 2000

Agent's Reference No. P3958 127770

#15
5-23-03
DPS
Rec'd

TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WIPO

APPLICANT: TOWNSEND ENGINEERING COMPANY, et al.
INT'L APPLN NO: PCT/US00/02028
INT'L FILING DATE: 26, January 2000
TITLE: METHOD AND MEANS FOR FILLING NATURAL CASING SAUSAGES

LETTER TRANSMITTING NEW SHEETS CONTAINING
NEW CLAIM UNDER ARTICLE 19

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, SWITZERLAND

Dear Sir:

In response to the International Search Report and the prior art references disclosed therein dated June 6, 2000, enclosed are substitute pages 6, 6A, 7, 8, 9, 9A and 9B in the above international application. The following have been amended:

Claim 6, line 1, change "claim 1" to --claim 22--.

Claim 9, line 1, change "claim 7" to --claim 8--.

Claim 18, line 1, change "claim 6" to --claim 1--.

Claim 1 has been amended on page 6.

New claims 22-24 have been added as page 9A and 9B.

REMARKS

Independent method claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations from claim 6 regarding the thrust collar, and the step of intermittently pushing the thrust collar against the casing without squeezing or compressing the casing, but to facilitate the forward movement of the casing on the stuffing tube. None of the cited references teach or suggest such a step of intermittently pushing the thrust collar on natural casing, as required by amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 and dependent claims 2-5 and 18 distinguish over the references so as to be in proper form for allowance.